

**Bawinanga is pleased to announce several new managerial appointments!** **Callen Free** has been appointed the **Manager of Construction & Commercial Trades Services** and **Brett Wilbe** the **Homelands Services Manager**. These appointments follow the separation of Homelands Services from the Housing Department, in line with BHAC's renewed focus on enhancing and expanding the services provided to people residing on Homelands.

Also, **Jason Koh** will now be leading the famous **Djelk Rangers**, one of the pioneering Indigenous land management programs in Australia, with a fabulous highly skilled team looking after more than 670,000 hectares of land and sea country.

All newly appointed managers have been an integral part of our team for several years and have demonstrated unwavering commitment, leadership, and a deep understanding of the unique needs of our Homelands residents. Please join us in congratulating **Callen, Brett and Jason** on their well-deserved appointment – keep up the good work!

JASON KOH



BRETT WILBE



CALLEN FREE



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## BAWINANGA HOMELANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



### BHAC NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 – March 2025

Bawinanga Homelands Aboriginal Corporation is beaming with pride as we celebrate our Board Member, **Dean Mununggullumurr Yibarbuk**, for receiving an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Charles Darwin University. This well-deserved recognition honours his lifetime of dedication to land conservation and Indigenous ecological knowledge. The award was presented on 1 March 2025 in a truly special way—on Country, in a spectacular setting of Djinkarr outstation, his ancestral homeland near Maningrida.

At the ceremony, we spotted some of Dean's family in tears as he spoke with pride about the incredible progress made by Indigenous ranger groups and his personal journey. He is a shining example of First Nations leadership, a true inspiration to the Bininj people and a confirmation of their ability to go far in this world, step up as rangers and care for Country, creating exciting opportunities through traditional knowledge.

**Congratulations once again, Dr Yibarbuk! We are so immensely proud to have you on our Board.**





### Tucker Run – Homelands, Here We Come!

Even with the wet season making roads tricky and some outstations nearly impossible to get to, BHAC is powering through with the tucker run. Every week, two vehicles head out twice, packed with frozen and chilled foods, dry goods, fresh veggies and fruit, doing their best to reach remote Homelands like Bolkdjam, Buluhkaduru, Ankabadbirri, Kolorbidahdah, and Ji-Balbal. The setup's solid – each truck's got a till with EFTPOS thanks to mobile Starlink, so people can shop right there on the spot. It's not easy getting supplies out, but the crew's making sure no one goes without. There's even better news – Bawinanga recently scored an RJED grant just for the tucker run. That means big plans ahead: we are looking to expand the fleet to four vehicles and give the old shed next to the CDP building a makeover for proper food storage. Once the dry season hits and the roads open up, the service will stretch out to even more outstations. Locals are already loving it – saving their money and waiting for tucker run days. It's more than just food delivery – it's a lifeline to the Homelands.

**Picture: Tucker Run Coordinator Oliver Ankin – making a huge difference!**



### Maningrida Welcomes a Special Visit!

On 5 March 2025, Bawinanga had the pleasure of welcoming the **Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy**, and the **Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour**, to Maningrida. The Minister's visit was to launch a 10-year National Strategy aimed at improving food security in remote communities—right here where it matters most.

Accompanied by **BHAC Chair Cynthia Brown, Deputy Chair and West Arnhem Mayor James Woods**, and **CEO Kira Bourke**, the visitors toured the newly refurbished Barlmarrk supermarket, discussed BHAC's renewed focus on Homelands services with the newly appointed Homelands Services Manager, Brett Wilbe, and inspected the tucker run vehicle. They also enjoyed shopping for unique textiles designed by local artists at the Babbarra Women's Centre, had a good yarn with local families, and even shook hands with some newly hatched crocs at the Djelk Rangers' shed!

